Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8 at line 23 as follows:

In step 222, the receiving MTA 116 deletes the relaying MTA's 112 ~~116~~ information in the database 120 after the randomized delay period has expired. The deletion of the relaying MTA's 112 ~~116~~ information from the database allows for a new delay period to be calculated once the predetermined time period has expired. While as mentioned above, the predetermined time period is one day, other embodiments of the present invention may recalculate the delay period either more or less often than once per day. Preferably, however, the delay period should be calculated at least every 12 hours in view of a maximum resend threshold of 12 hours observed on the Internet. Also, the interval in which the delay period is recalculated should also not be reduced to a point where normal e-mail conversations are excessively interfered with. Since, spam is sent very broadly, whereas normal e-mail conversations tend to be much more narrowly addressed and exchanged, spammers will be more affected by a delay period than regular e-mail senders.